

Know Before You Go! Winter Edition 2021!

How to Visit State Parks during Covid-19 Safely and Responsibly



Welcome!

Whether you are a regular park user or new to Massachusetts state parks and water supply areas, we understand open space is now more valuable than ever. Please help us protect the parks while keeping them safe and enjoyable for all.

How to visit a DCR property during COVID19

Follow all park and trail head guidelines for the safety and enjoyment of you and others.

Visit the park website and **Massachusetts State Parks COVID - 19 Update** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-state-parks-covid-19-update> for current information and advisories before you leave home.

If you are visiting **Quabbin Reservoir** or **Wachusett Reservoir**, remember these areas are where thousands of Massachusetts residents get their drinking water. These properties are not state parks. These critical water supply areas are where drinking water is managed and stored. Be outdoor wise and help us protect these properties and keep water clean and safe. For more information visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/dcr-office-of-watershed-management>

Know Before You Go

- Print or download a trail map at home. Paper maps are no longer available at state parks due to COVID-19. GPS signals may not be available on smartphones in thickly-settled trails.
 - For a list of DCR trail maps visit: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/dcr-trail-maps>.
- Check the weather and dress for it. Wear layers and sturdy footwear.
- Know the trail conditions. Keep it short and safe. Stay clear of icy trails—or be prepared with traction devices and hiking poles.
- Be flexible—if the park is busy or weather becomes harsh, please come back later in the week.
- Remember the sun sets early. Please be off the trails before sunset. Plan to be back at your car by 4:30 p.m. as it will be dark by then.
- Know which parks are pet friendly:
 - Dogs are not permitted in DCR Water Supply Protection areas and several state parks.
 - Always keep your dog leashed. Always pick up after your dog and dispose of waste properly. For complete guidelines visit: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/dogs-in-dcr-parks>.
- Remember visitor centers and rest rooms may be closed, so plan your hike accordingly.

Upon Arriving at the Park

Be flexible and courteous. Park only in designated areas. Please do not park on the road, in fields not designated for parking, or on neighbors' properties. If the parking lot is full, please come back another time.

Be COVID-19 Safe to Protect Yourself, Other Visitors and Park Staff

- Stay home if you are not feeling well.
- Wear a mask or facial covering at all times, covering both your nose and mouth—they are required at all state parks.
- Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Gather and hike with the members of your household only.
- Share the trails: Announce your presence as you approach, step aside to allow space for others to safely pass on the trail.
- Carry and use hand sanitizer before and after touching shared surfaces.
- Carry out all trash and belongings you carry in—including pet waste.

Quick Check Packing List: Things to Bring

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> face mask | <input type="checkbox"/> a cell phone for emergencies. Dial 911. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hand sanitizer | <input type="checkbox"/> Dress for the weather and in layers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drinking water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wear sturdy footwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> trash bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Leave No Trace Principles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> download or print a map | https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> notify someone of your plans | |

Thank you for caring for our common wealth of open space. Your cooperation will keep the state parks and water supply areas open and safe for all. Enjoy your visit!